Distinctions Between Domestic Abuse/Intimate Partner Violence and Adult Sexual Assault

Domestic abuse/intimate partner violence

- Abuse occurs in a marital or intimate partner relationship while there is an ongoing risk of further abuse.
- Abuse may include emotional, physical and sexual maltreatment.
- Domestic abuse/intimate partner violence does not always qualify as a criminal offense.
- Victims frequently elect to remain in the relationship with the offender and Family Advocacy Program services help the victim stay safe utilizing tools such as military and civilian protective orders.
- Family Advocacy Program services include safety assessments, case management, counseling and advocacy services and education to victims on the dynamics of domestic abuse.
- Family Advocacy Program provides clinical treatment to offenders and victims.
- Domestic abuse victim advocates provide support, accompaniment to medical and court appointments and referrals to internal and external resources. Victims also have access 24/7 to

Sexual assault

- Offense occurs between adult non-intimate partners. However, the majority of victims "know" their abusers.
- Sexual assault involves rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex) and other unwanted sexual contact.
- Sexual assault is a criminal act and a Uniform Code of Military Justice offense.
- Victim may not know or want contact with the offender. If continued contact exists, victims can request an expedited transfer, if they are uncomfortable.
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program provides advocacy to victims and case management, to include safety assessments.
- The sexual assault response coordinator, or SAPR, victim advocate facilitates healthcare, access to off-installation resources, legal services, chaplaincy services and referrals and accompaniment to appointments.
- Sexual assault victims also have access to the anonymous 24/7 DoD Safe Helpline (877-995-5247) for crisis intervention and victim support.